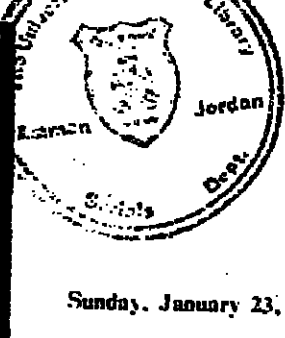


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U.S. worried over troop incidents

WASHINGTON (AP). — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger said on Friday there have been more incidents between U.S. Marines and Israeli soldiers in Lebanon and that he is "very worried" that the confrontations could "grow into something much more serious."

Weinberger disclosed that "there have been additional ones since the episodes last Monday in which an Israeli patrol twice was turned back by Marines at a checkpoint."

The Defence Department has said that during one of those January 17 encounters, a Marine was "nudged" by an Israeli jeep but the Marine did not suffer any injury.

"I'm very worried about these incidents, and they are continuing," Weinberger said in an interview recorded for broadcast yesterday by Cable News Network. "We are worried about isolated incidents of that kind that could grow into something much more serious."

"I think we've made vigorous protests to the Israelis because they are coming down and using and occupying roads that have been assigned to the multinational force — in this case, our marine detachments — to patrol."

According to Weinberger, the U.S. protests to the Israeli government have been "increasing in strength and vigour."

Asked whether the Israelis have responded to the protests,

Weinberger said, "I would hope they will very shortly."

Defence Correspondent **Hirsh Goodman** adds: Defence officials in Israel last night expressed "amazement" at what they termed Weinberger's "overreaction." They said it seemed as if Weinberger were determined to make an issue over something which was marginal at best.

The background to the tension lies in the fact that since the increase in incidents of terror against Israeli objectives on the main route to Beirut, the Israelis have been going on morning patrols using firearms. The Marines have complained that often Israeli bullets have come perilously close to American positions.

Israeli officials said that the patrols would continue to use live ammunition since this was the only way of insuring that convoys on the road would not be attacked. With the first light, Israeli armoured personnel carriers move down the road firing into the thick brush and destroyed structures along the route.

The IDF spokesman said last night that at no time have Israeli forces entered the territory controlled by the U.S. Marines, even though a number of times terrorists had fled to the Marine-controlled area after committing acts of sabotage.



President Yitzhak Navon (left) talks with Prime Minister Menachem Begin who called on him on Friday to hear about the president's visit to the U.S. (See story P.3).

After meeting last week with Arafat Calls for Sheli leaders to be prosecuted

Jerusalem Post Staff

The storm surrounding last week's meeting between three left-wing Israelis and PLO leader Yasser Arafat continued over the weekend, with three cabinet ministers demanding new legislation to make such meetings illegal.

MK Moshe Shahal, leader of the Labour Party Knesset faction, said that current Israeli legislation was sufficient for the attorney-general to prosecute if he saw fit.

The three, **Haolam Hazeh** editor **Uri Avnery**, **Aluf (Res.) Matityahu Peled** and former Finance Ministry director-general **Ya'acov Arnon**, are leaders of the Council for Israel-Palestinian Peace and members of Sheli.

Justice Minister Moshe Nissim said last night that he had not been approached by Prime Minister Menachem Begin or other ministers to consider amending the law to make meetings with Arafat a punishable offence. Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i let it be known last night that he intends suggesting such an amendment at the weekly cabinet meeting this morning.

Moda'i said it was "regrettable that Israel must resort to legislation to achieve something which the president of the U.S. and the prime minister of Great Britain regard as self-evident." Sources close to Moda'i said that he was confident that Nissim would support the proposed amendment.

Sources close to Nissim, however, made it clear that the justice minister would not rush into offering his opinion on the matter — if, indeed, it comes up in the cabinet meeting today. These sources said Nissim sees the idea of amending the law as being complex and fraught with many, contrary considerations, both legal and political.

Well-placed government legal experts affirmed last night that the law as it presently stands — and especially in light of Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir's rulings on meetings with Arafat during the Lebanon war — would not support a criminal prosecution now, when there is no active war being waged.

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Friday that the government must draft new legislation to prevent meetings between Israeli citizens and PLO members. If existing laws were not sufficient to take legal action against Avnery, Peled and Arnon, Shamir said, then new legislation should be introduced.

Shamir was addressing a meeting of veterans of the pre-state Stern group and Irgun underground organizations in Tel Aviv. He said that the three were "enemies of the state and of democracy" who had

Med-Dead Sea power plant put on 'hold'

By CHARLES HOFFMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Confusion in the world oil markets and the recent drop in oil prices has led the Energy Ministry to recommend that work on the hydro-electric power plant in the Mediterranean-Dead Sea project be put off for several years, while going ahead with the canal and tunnel system bringing water across the Negev.

The water is considered essential for cooling future power plants to be built in the area and for other energy and industrial projects.

Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that the drop in world oil prices has forced a re-evaluation of the need for the 800 megawatt-capacity hydro-electric plant planned at the outlet of the 80-kilometre conduit at the Dead Sea.

Recent cost-benefit studies by the Med-Dead Company concluded that the energy benefits of the project will just cover its estimated \$1.3 billion cost, making it a break-even proposition. The power plant accounts for most of the total cost.

Estimates three years ago put the net economic benefits at \$550m., but this has been outdated by rises in the interest rates of the capital needed to invest in the project and a steady decline in the price of fuel to be saved by the hydro-electric plant. The plant was planned to start operating in the early 1990s.

"There is great uncertainty and confusion now in the world oil markets," Moda'i said, "and only God knows what direction developments will take. For that reason, we have decided to go ahead now with detailed planning for the canal, while waiting for several years to decide whether to begin work on the Dead Sea."

(Continued on back page)

Lebanese agree to U.S. surveillance stations

BEIRUT (AP). — Lebanon has agreed to a U.S.-proposed compromise that would have Americans man electronic surveillance stations on Lebanon's central mountains and start a partial pullback of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces next month, a government spokesman said yesterday.

The Lebanese government, however, decided to seek an end to the "current border anarchy" under which \$20 million worth of Israeli goods filtered into Lebanon in December, said the spokesman who declined to be identified.

He said Lebanon's position was made clear in the lengthy talks U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib held on Friday night with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and his senior government aides.

Habib flew to Cairo yesterday, briefed Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak "on the status of my efforts in Lebanon" and then flew to Saudi Arabia for talks with King Fahd and his foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal.

Lebanon's state radio said Habib plans to return to Jerusalem today to try again to change Israel's stance on the spy stations. He will fly to Washington early next week for consultations with President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz and be back in the Middle East before next weekend, the radio said.

Israel wants to maintain three electronic spy stations in central Lebanon as part of the security arrangements. It is demanding as a price for withdrawing its forces from Lebanon.

"The Lebanese reject this and every other security arrangement that infringes on Lebanese sovereignty," the spokesman said. "But we have told Ambassador Habib that we are willing to agree to security arrangements under multinational and United Nations control."

Syria, which has an estimated 30,000-man army stationed in northern and eastern Lebanon, has warned through its state-run media that Israeli surveillance stations in Lebanon's state radio said Habib

Israeli press up for award

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Finnish and Scandinavian journalists and publishers have nominated the Israeli press for the International Association of Newspaper Publishers' annual "Golden Pen" award.

The award, presented for outstanding achievements in the struggle for freedom of the press, would be given to Israeli newspapers collectively in honour of their coverage of Operation Peace for the Galilee.

The Finnish-Scandinavian recommendation notes that, despite difficulties, the Israeli press succeeded in informing its readers of the massacre in the Beirut refugee camps, and played an important part in forcing the government to set up a judicial commission of inquiry.

The executive committee of the publisher's association will meet in Italy next week and decide whether to accept the recommendation. The association's general convention, at which the Golden Pen award is presented, will take place this year in London.

A representative of the Israel Newspaper Publishers Association, who sits on the executive committee of the international body, has told his colleagues there that if the Israeli press is given the award, the decision must bear no political tint or significance.

Elias Freij off today for Jordan and Egypt

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij leaves today for a three week trip to Jordan and Egypt. This was reported by Israel Radio's English News yesterday.

Freij will meet with President Hosni Mubarak before his trip to Washington and also with Jordan's King Hussein. Asked what message he would be taking to the two leaders, Freij said that there had to be peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians and a halt to Jewish settlement on the West Bank. Without these two elements the "whole crazy situation" would continue, he said.

Before leaving, Freij dismissed his Communist deputy-mayor, George Khazavon, reportedly over differences in policy towards the civil administration.

Terrorists arrested for TA bus attack

Jerusalem Post Staff

TEL AVIV. — The security forces have arrested members of an Egyptian-based terrorist group who carried out a recent grenade attack on a bus in Tel Aviv, the IDF spokesman said on Friday.

The spokesman said that the terrorists lived in the villages of Bir El-Barah and Marazi, in the Gaza Strip.

One of them told security officers that they belonged to Fatah and that their commanders were based in Egypt.

In the bus attack two weeks ago, 12 persons were wounded when a grenade smashed through the windscreen and exploded in the bus. The IDF said that one of the detained men confessed to a previous grenade attack in the Gaza Strip last November, which killed one Arab and wounded four others.

Israel in the past has accused Egypt of failing to prevent Palestinian terrorists from infiltrating the Gaza Strip from its territory.

More snow on the way

Snow may fall in the mountainous areas of the North and in Jerusalem tomorrow or Tuesday the meteorological station at Beit Dagan said last night.

Showers, thunder storms and high winds were forecast for the mountain peaks and high lying areas today.

Barclays Discount accused of false claims on diamonds

By DAVID LANDAU
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Barclays Discount Bank submitted large insurance claims to Lloyds underwriters "knowing them to be false or fraudulent," according to an investigative report prepared for the underwriters by a noted firm of British solicitors.

The claims were for a total of some \$5 million in dishonoured "trust receipts" which BDB had made out to Israeli diamond merchants during the 1980-81 boom period in the local diamond industry.

The report was compiled by the firm of Clyde and Co., solicitors of Mining Lane, London. Last week Tel Aviv lawyer Ya'acov Weinroth, acting on behalf of several diamond dealers, delivered a copy of the report to the state attorney's office with a request that criminal prosecutions against his clients be suspended in light of the facts disclosed in the report.

Weinroth also handed in a copy of Clyde and Co.'s report on similar insurance claims made against Lloyds underwriters by another Israeli bank active in the diamond industry. First International Bank of Israel.

FBI, it is reliably understood, has recently settled its claim against the underwriters out-of-court, accepting a small percentage of its original demand.

BDB, however, has answered the Clyde and Co. report with a rejoinder asserting its good faith, and is preparing to fight its case in the Israeli courts.

If Weinroth succeeds in winning a stay of prosecution against his diamond dealer-clients — the discretion is in the hands of the attorney-general — that would severely weaken BDB's case, since BDB claims in effect that it was cheated by the diamond dealers and should consequently be covered by the Lloyds underwriters for its losses.

Deputy State Attorney Amnon Rudeh told *The Jerusalem Post* at the weekend that his department and the police fraud squad would certainly study the Clyde and Co. reports, but it was too early to tell whether they would recommend a stay of prosecution against the diamond dealers on the basis of the reports.

"Trust receipts" are documents signed by diamond dealers who seek to obtain credit — often

government-subsidized cheap credit — from banks.

The "trust receipt" ostensibly shows that a diamond dealer deposited diamonds with the bank as collateral for his credit, and then received the diamonds back again from the bank, on trust, in order to do business with them.

The system was very widely used during the boom years of 1980-81. At that time diamond dealers enjoyed some \$1.2 billion in subsidized credit — about one-third of it covered by "trust receipts."

In practice, though, according to Clyde and Co. reports, the requirements of deposit-and-withdrawal, with proper weighing and valuation of the entrusted diamonds, was rarely applied, and in many cases the "trust receipts" were mere paper formalities.

The banks, says Clyde and Co., "ignored the basic tenet that it was specific goods that were entrusted, and those goods, or their proceeds, were to be returned to the bank during or at the end of the TR ('trust receipt') period. The banks saw the trustee's obligation at the end of the TR period as one to show value to the amount of the TR, in diamonds or other security, from any sources."

"All, of course, worked very well as long as the diamond dealers were

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BUENOS AIRES	20	18	22	Cloudy
CHICAGO	3	2	3	Snow
COPENHAGEN	8	6	10	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	4	3	5	Cloudy
GENEVA	4	3	5	Cloudy
HELSINKI	4	3	5	Cloudy
HONG KONG	27	27	27	Cloudy
JOHANNESBURG	22	22	22	Cloudy
LONDON	8	4	12	Cloudy
MADRID	6	2	11	Cloudy
MONTREAL	12	9	15	Cloudy
NEW YORK	6	2	11	Cloudy
OSLO	1	0	2	Cloudy
PARIS	6	4	8	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	21	20	22	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	19	18	20	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	2	2	3	Cloudy
TOKYO	1	0	2	Cloudy
TORONTO	5	3	8	Cloudy
VIENNA	1	0	2	Cloudy
ZURICH	0	0	2	Cloudy

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Showers with strong winds. Possible snow on higher elevations.

	Yesterday's	Today's	Max
Jerusalem	32	0-15	10
Golan	33	6-14	9
Nahariya	30	10-18	14
Safed	50	4-11	8
Haifa Port	55	10-18	14
Tiberias	40	5-17	13
Nazareth	43	5-14	10
Afula	50	1-17	13
Sharon	43	2-14	10
Tel Aviv	56	1-17	14
B-G Airport	32	3-18	14
Jericho	52	3-17	13
Gaza	40	7-18	14
Beer-sheva	30	2-16	13
Eilat	15	5-22	18

Dovrat retracts resignation from Clal

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Aharon Dovrat will evidently stay on as general manager of Clal, the largest private holding company in Israel.
Yesterday evening Dovrat, who is in London, informed corporate secretary Ephraim Zussman that "in view of the impassioned plea to continue as head of Clal by Israel Polak, joint chairman of the Clal board, and other board members, I have decided to reconsider my resignation."
Dovrat also told Zussman that his decision is not connected in any form whatsoever with financial considerations. (He is reported to have demanded a salary increase above the present \$140,000 a year and other cash benefits.)
The board of directors, which over the weekend had decided to hold an emergency meeting today to discuss the resignation and its consequences, cancelled the meeting upon hearing of Dovrat's change of mind. The ordinary board meeting, originally scheduled for Thursday, will meet as planned to discuss all outstanding matters.
Dovrat is flying to Frankfurt, Germany, today and will return to Israel late tomorrow evening.

Rumanian chief rabbi here for extended stay

TEL AVIV (Itim). — Rumanian Chief Rabbi Dr. David Moshe Rosen arrived on Friday for an extended stay in Israel, together with his wife Dr. Amalia Rosen.
During his visit, Rosen will meet with government and Jewish Agency figures for talks on immigration problems. He will also finalize arrangements for the founding of a chair in his name at Bar-Ilan University dedicated to the study of Eastern European Jewish culture.

Mill worker crushed

TULKARM (Itim). — Ibrahim Mahmud, 60, was killed on Friday while working at a flour mill at Barta.
He was pouring grain when his trousers were caught in the grinding machinery, and he was crushed to death.

Foreign lines slam El Al marketing plan

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Foreign airline managers in Israel on Friday criticized El Al's drastic fare reductions and warned that the airline's new marketing policy will increase the losses incurred by foreign airlines on their routes to Israel.
The managers said they would meet El Al's management to suggest alternative ways of encouraging tourism to Israel.
El Al has launched a new marketing campaign, dubbed "a treat in every ticket," offering reductions, benefits and even free tickets. It will run from January 30

HOME NEWS

Israelis won't fight in Zaire, Sharon promises on return

Israelis in Zaire helping to build up that nation's army will not become involved in any fighting within its borders, nor will they become involved "in any war between states," Defence Minister Ariel Sharon declared on his return from Zaire on Friday.
Sharon said that the agreement on Israeli military aid to Zaire to be submitted for cabinet approval, stipulated a "multi-year" program. "The view is long-range, comprehensive," Sharon said. "It's more than a plan for setting up this or that unit. It's on the level of Zaire's national security."
The arms and equipment to be purchased by Zaire will "make a contribution to Israel's exports," Sharon added. He said that in the last year Israel has sold Zaire arms worth millions of dollars, and Zaire "has made its payments meticulously."
Asked whether it was desirable to base relations with another state mainly on defence aid, Sharon answered that although the "breakthrough" in renewing ties with Zaire was "in the defence area," he expects aid to extend to "the areas of economy, diplomatic cooperation, and agriculture."
Sharon also said that "in time," other African states will renew their ties with Israel.

STOCK MARKET REVIEW

Differing explanations for last Thursday's near-panic

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN
Post Finance Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Thursday's near-panic conditions on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange have been attributed, in a number of quarters, to an ill-timed and inopportune announcement of the Treasury's intentions to impose curbs on the country's mutual funds, and to a misleading radio report that the stock exchange would be closed for trading that day.

More than half the shares registered for trading fell by margins of 5 per cent or more. Of those, 142 individual securities were established as "sellers only" and were automatically reduced in price by 5 per cent or more, without any trading taking place.

Another 137 securities fell by margins of 5 to 10 per cent, and in some cases by even more.

The General Share Index, excluding commercial banks, fell by 4.79 per cent, the worst one-day fall in recent memory.

"The market was finely balanced and in a state of nervousness. All it needed was one push and the stampede would be on. The Treasury announcement sparked off the stampede," said one observer.

Other observers have suggested that the Treasury's action was premeditated. "It was not an attempt at a premeditated murder of

the stock market but rather a means of causing a short-lived but sharp fall in the prices of equities so as to cool the public's appetite for shares and make the public more receptive to investing its excess funds in government-backed savings schemes," a market analyst stated.

Over the weekend, the Treasury did its best to calm frayed nerves. It suggested that the market would calm down when trading resumes today.

The mutual funds proved on Thursday that they are not immune to falling markets — some declining by 3 to 5 per cent.
Little noticed in the panic was the reaffirmation of the stock exchange board at its weekly Thursday afternoon meeting that if more than a certain number of shares held by a mutual fund are registered as "sellers only," the managers of the fund may reallocate its holdings downwards by 10 per cent.

The conservative investors' holdings were little affected by last week's events. The index-linked bond market ended the week with moderate gains. The shekel was devalued by 1.7 agorot.

Israeli securities traded in the U.S. were, on the whole, not affected. But the shares of Elron Electronic fell by \$2.50 on the American Over-the-Counter market just an hour after last Thursday's closing of the Tel Aviv stock exchange.

Mubarak: counterproductive to cut ties

CAIRO (Reuters). — If Egypt broke off diplomatic relations with Israel, the Israelis would use this as an excuse to attack the Arabs, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted as saying over the weekend.
Such a break would be a theatrical act detrimental to the Palestinian cause, he said in an interview with the London-based Arabic-language newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* (The Middle East). Only Israel would benefit from such a move, he added.
Mubarak, who leaves on Wednesday

to tour the U.S., Canada, Britain and France, said Israel would exploit a break of relations to accuse Egypt of violating the treaty between the two countries.
Israel "would claim the Arabs do not want peace, and would use this as a pretext to strike at any Arab country," he said.

Mubarak, who will discuss Middle East peace plans with the leaders of the four western nations he is to visit, reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to its 1978 Camp David agreements with Israel.

Egyptians repair Taba border fence

EILAT (Itim). — The Egyptians on Friday began repairing the border fence which they had dismantled the previous day in the disputed Taba area south of Eilat. They also removed the two tractors which had begun levelling ground in the no-man's land separating the two countries.

Low barbed-wire fencing was used to replace the fence destroyed on Thursday, some 100 metres from the border fence on the Israeli side.

Israel and Egypt have disagreed over the sovereignty of Taba since the signing of the peace treaty between the two countries. Egypt claims that the area is on the Egyptian side of the international border, while Israel has said that it will never be returned to Egypt.

Israelis and Egyptians in Taba nearly came to blows on Thursday before the issue was resolved in an exchange of messages between Jerusalem and Cairo.

Family of eight in hospital after gas leak

BEERSHEBA. — Shira and Eliezer Pickholtz and their six children aged 1½ months to 13 years were taken to Soroka hospital here late Friday night by helicopter from Arad, suffering from asphyxiation. They are likely to be released from hospital today.

The family was asleep at home on Friday night while a gas heating stove was on and all the windows

and doors were closed. It is believed that a gas leak from the stove caused them to become ill. At 11 p.m. one of the children apparently vomited, waking the mother. She managed to call help from the Arad Magen David Adom.

Three ambulances arrived but when the attendants saw the number of people involved a helicopter was summoned.



Prof. George Pimentel, left, and Prof. John Polanyi.

Wolf Prizes in chemistry

Jerusalem Post Staff
An American and a Canadian have been named to share the 1982 Wolf Prize for chemistry, the foundation's committee has announced.
Prof. John Polanyi of the University of Toronto is being honoured for his studies of chemical reactions in unprecedented detail through development of the infrared chemiluminescence technique, and for envisaging the principles underlying the chemical laser.
Polanyi was born in Germany, in 1929, and has become known as a prime innovator in the field of chemical dynamics.
Prof. George Pimentel, of the University of California at

Berkeley, is being honoured for the development of matrix isolation spectroscopy and for the discovery of photodissociation lasers and chemical lasers.

Born in 1922 in the U.S., Pimentel's work figures importantly in current efforts to achieve power generation by laser-induced nuclear fusion reactions.

The Wolf Prize, said to be second in value to the Nobel Prize, grants \$100,000 awards for internationally recognized achievements in each of six categories: physics, agriculture, medicine, chemistry, mathematics and arts (music). It was established in 1975 by the late Ricardo Wolf, inventor, diplomat and philanthropist.

Lecturer held amid Nablus ferment

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Security forces detained a young physics lecturer at An-Najah university in Nablus on Friday and imposed a curfew on the town's ancient market yesterday during unrest sparked this time by the effective closure of the university for almost two weeks.

A university spokesman said that no reason had been provided for the arrest of the lecturer, Sami Kilani, a resident of Nablus. The spokesman, Saib Arakat, said the army is still holding nine members of the student council who were detained 13 days ago following a rally at the campus to mark the anniversary of the founding of the Fatah organization. He also complained that daily

army roadblocks around the university have effectively prevented faculty and students from attending classes, and that the university has for all practical purposes been closed since then.

An official of the Judea and Samaria civil administration last night dismissed the allegations as "untrue," and said that the roadblocks around the university are to verify whether foreign teachers hold work permits, and in the wake of the Fatah rally, to check that only registered students enter the campus.

Border Police yesterday dispersed a crowd of stone-throwing youths in the centre of Nablus, and later imposed a curfew on the *casbah*.

LEBANESE AGREE

(Continued from Page One)
Lebanon would be considered a threat to Syria's security.
Syrian President Hafez Assad has threatened to undermine any agreement that would give Israel political or military gains in Lebanon.

The "Voice of Lebanon" radio station of Jemayel's Christian Phalangist party said up to 1,200 Americans would be needed to man the early warning stations in central Lebanon if Habib's compromise proposal was eventually accepted by Israel.

David Landan adds: When Habib left Israel on Friday, after a week of intensive talks, the feeling on the Israeli side was that areas of dispute with the U.S. had not been appreciably narrowed. Well-placed Israeli sources listed among these disputes the Israeli demand for IDF-manned warning stations inside Lebanon, the Israeli demand that UNIFIL be removed from South Lebanon, and the Israeli desire for a good deal of "normalization" in relations with Lebanon.

Habib met on Friday morning with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defence Minister Ariel

Sharon, and the Israeli negotiating team to the Halde-Kiryat Shmona talks. Later he conferred alone with Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

The Israeli sources seemed to doubt that the U.S. envoy would be able to sway the Lebanese leadership on the disputed points.

Of UNIFIL, these sources said, Habib had been deliberately vague about the UN force's future role, but he certainly believed that the force should stay in the south to help the Lebanese army. Israel's view, the sources said, was that UNIFIL would hinder rather than help police the area and keep it free of terrorists.

On "normalization" (or "mutual relations") as it is termed in the negotiations agenda, Habib's position had been that certain broad principles be established — such as the principle of open borders — but detailed arrangements be made only after the withdrawal of foreign forces had been achieved. Israel wants that order reversed.

Habib had cited Arab pressures on Lebanon to explain why it was hard for Beirut to agree to detailed "normalization" arrangements at this time.

SHELI LEADERS

(Continued from Page One)
asked the legal adviser of the Council for Israel-Palestinian Peace to check whether there were legal grounds for prosecuting Shamir on charges of incitement to murder.

The AFP French news agency reported from Tunis on Friday that the PLO was debating whether to invite representatives of the peace council to attend the next meeting of the Palestine National Council as observers. The meeting is scheduled to take place in Algiers on April.

It was also reported from Tunis that Arafat met with Israeli journalist Amnon Kapeliuk on Thursday.

Arafat's meetings with left-wing Israelis were criticized on Friday by the pro-Syria Sacka organization.

Sacka is one of several groups within the PLO to have recently criticized Arafat's policies.

The Haifa District attorney has been asked by the police to decide whether there is a case against Avnery in connection with his meeting with Arafat in Beirut last July. District attorney Yehuda Reshef will decide whether Avnery broke the Law for the Prevention of Infiltration, which makes it illegal to leave the country for an enemy country. The maximum punishment for this offence is four years imprisonment.

If Avnery crossed into Lebanon through Rosh Hanikra, the matter would fall under the jurisdiction of the Haifa DA. If, on the other hand, he crossed the border at Metulla, the file would be handled by the Galilee DA in Nazareth.

Week's road victims include 4 pedestrians killed, 48 hurt

Jerusalem Post Staff
Four of seven road accident fatalities last week were pedestrians, national police headquarters reported on Friday. In addition to the dead, 95 persons were seriously wounded and 125 slightly injured in 148 separate accidents. A total of 48 of the injured were pedestrians.

One of those injured on Friday morning, Mirtze Charpitio, 33, of Neveh Sharet, died last night. He had been hit by a bus on Derech Petah Tikva.

The main cause of the week accidents, police said, were improper crossing by pedestrians, speeding and deviating from lanes.

In Haifa, police this morning will start a campaign to slow down hasty drivers on three city roads which

have suffered a particularly heavy volume of traffic accidents due to speeding.

The enforcement drive follows a study made by a team of Haifa University experts headed by Dr. Amos Rolider and assisted by Professor Ron van Houten, a Canadian expert on traffic law enforcement and road offenders' behaviour. The research was paid for by the Road Safety Authority.

The three roads — Horev and International on Mt. Carmel and Allenby in Hadar — will be equipped with large signs and hidden radar speed traps. Constables will stop speeding drivers and issue them tickets as well as leaflets pointing out the number of accidents and victims that occurred on these roads as a result of reckless driving.

BARCLAYS DISCOUNT

(Continued from Page One)

solvent. And solvency was not a problem since diamonds generally increased in value... and the Israeli diamond dealers, in world terms, were very competitive, because of the cheap finance to which they were entitled...

"However, from the end of 1980 diamond prices started falling, and badly... Even subsidized credit could not save all the traders, particularly those who had been foolish... Traders became unable to pay their debts to the banks and when called upon to close their TRs were unable to do so. Following that inability came the avalanche of insurance claims, which we have been investigating these last several months."

The reports stress that the insurance policies were formulated to protect the banks against infidelity by the diamond dealers. But "there was no criminality or dishonesty; merely a lack of money... But that is not what underwriters underwrite, and (the banks) must therefore appreciate that they have no claims."

Apart from FIBI and BDB two other major banks are believed to have submitted claims for insurance coverage from Lloyds Underwriters. Union Bank of Israel reached an out-of-court settlement, and United Mizrahi Bank's claim is still pending.

Clyde and Co's report on BDB unearthed what it calls "the most startling of the TR system abuses" in a case involving a diamond firm named Tamoun. "Diamonds of the same weight and value were deposited five times in one day, and appraised by the same appraisers! It is not possible to produce five packages of diamonds having the same weight and value, and it is inconceivable that the appraisers common to these deposits were unaware of what was going on."

The report says this was an instance in which "Clauses of the policy" applies "which provides that if the Assured shall make any claim knowing the same to be false or fraudulent... this insurance shall

become void..."

Another case cited in the report concerned a firm called Chanel Diamonds which had signed two "rolling TRs," dated 11.5.81-totalling \$99,925.

"Of particular interest here is the appearance of the same package on each TR."

This trustee's credit was clearly limited to \$100,000. So, according to the system practised, he should have turned up on the due date, May 11, with diamonds worth approximately \$100,000 to discharge the previous TR, those diamonds (not being the ones initially entrusted) being handed back on an "in-and-out" basis.

"However it looks as though the trustee was unable to find diamonds to that value. So (he) came in twice that day: he deposited diamonds, including 'Package No. 1,' to renew (the TR) for \$99,952, took those diamonds back under the in-and-out scheme, and then later returned to the bank to deposit diamonds to renew the balance of his credit line, including 'Package No. 1,' already pledged to the bank earlier that day! One might call it the revolving door technique."

"It is difficult to believe that the bank didn't know the same goods were deposited twice on the same day..."

"Also, note the intriguing difference in the value. When 'Package No. 1' first came in, it was valued at \$175 per carat. When it reappeared later in the day, it was put at \$135 per carat. Whilst the value of diamonds was falling, it was not falling that fast!... Our investigators believe the second valuation was 'fudged' to arrive at the required figure of \$40,000, to achieve the rolling credit limit of \$100,000."

Clyde and Co. sent a copy of the report to the London head-office of Barclays Bank Ltd., part-owners, together with Israel Discount Bank, of BDB.

The Lloyds underwriters representative in Israel, Michael Fox of the Tel Aviv law firm Herzog, Fox and Ne'eman, refused last night to make any comment.

Syrians get long-range Soviet missiles

BEIRUT (AP). — The Soviet Union is equipping Syrian warplanes with air-to-air missiles that have a longer range than the American-made missiles available to the Israeli Air Force, a Lebanese independent magazine *Al-Mustakbal* reported yesterday.

The Paris-based publication also quoted unnamed Arab diplomatic sources as saying the Soviet Union has agreed to upgrade its treaty of friendship and cooperation with Syria to obligate Moscow to help Syria in any future war with Israel.

Both developments resulted from two secret trips Syrian president Hafez Assad made to Moscow before and after Israel's invasion of Lebanon last summer, the magazine said.

In addition to providing SAM-5 ground-to-air missiles, the Soviets agreed to equip modernized versions of Syria's MiG jets with new air-to-air missiles that have a

range of 95 kilometres, according to the magazine.

It said the Israeli Air Force was equipped with American-made missiles that had a maximum range of 60 kms. during the Lebanon war.

Al-Mustakbal did not give the name of the new Soviet air missile. There was no official Syrian comment on the magazine report.
Al-Mustakbal said the SAM-5 batteries the Soviets were setting up north of Damascus and in central Syria were part of an anti-aircraft missile network that would eventually cover Syria's entire borders.

DRILL. — A civil defence exercise will be held in the Beersheba area tomorrow, the army has announced. Shots, explosions and the all-clear air-raid siren will be heard. In case of a real emergency, a rising-and-falling alarm will be sounded.

We announce with deep sorrow the death of our dear wife, mother and grandmother

VICTORIA SHARON

who passed away Thursday night, January 22, 1983.

Abraham Sharon
Moshe and Judith Sharon
and children
Prima Baum and children
Rivka and Gaby Ben Porat

Shiva at 9 Midbar Street, Givat Hamivtar, Jerusalem.

Our dearest

SHOSHANA KATZ

has left us forever.

She donated her body to science.

Husband: Zeev Katz
Daughters: Nurit and Uri Rosen
Michal and Mordechai Shanger
and grandchildren

In very deep sorrow, we announce the death of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

SARA WOLFIN

The funeral will be held today, Sunday, January 23, 1983, at 1.45 p.m. at the Zur Shalom cemetery, Kiryat Bialik.

Mark and Olga Wolfin and Family

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our husband, father and dear grandfather

AHARON DUHL

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, January 23, 1983, at Kfar Samir cemetery, Haifa, at 1.30 p.m.
We will meet near the gate of the cemetery

Wife: Regina Duhl
Children: Yigal and Haya Duhl
grandchildren and family

TOMORROW Haga (Civil Defence) Exercise in Beersheba

Tomorrow, Monday, January 24, there will be a Haga exercise in the Beersheba district. During the exercise, the sound of firing and explosions will be heard, and the sirens will sound the all clear.

In the event of a real attack, the sirens will sound a rising and falling note.

'Peres would bow out to make way for Navon'

By SARAH HONIC
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Labour Party insiders predicted yesterday that chairman Shimon Peres would step down in favour of President Yitzhak Navon should Navon make a bid for the party leadership. Tensions are mounting in both the Alignment and the Likud as the date nears for Navon's February announcement of his future plans, amid reports he will not seek another presidential term.

The Likud says it will not try to dissuade Navon from leaving the presidency. Interior Minister Yosef Burg is mentioned as a possible successor.

Sources close to Peres told *The Jerusalem Post* that Peres might find relinquishing the No. 1 position in the party an honourable way of stepping down, considering that his popularity is on a constant decline. According to some pundits, Peres has personally informed Navon that he will not stand in his way.

However, the sources added that Peres is still counting on one final chance to become prime minister without elections. His hope is that the Beirut massacre inquiry report will be so damaging for the government, that it will shake the coalition and force Prime Minister Menachem Begin out of office.

The Likud's coalition partners, according to this scenario, would switch allegiance and team up with an alternative Alignment-led coalition headed by Peres.

This could occur, the sources say, even after Navon's expected announcement that he will not stand again for president, since the commission's report is also expected in February.

But other party sources say that should Navon not seek re-election, it would constitute a potential return to politics even if he takes leave from public life. Although he would no longer be president, according to this theory, he would still be available as Labour's candidate

for prime minister.

It is not clear how former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin would react. His supporters are urging him to continue seeking the party's leadership no matter what. But some argue that Rabin is chiefly motivated by hostility to Peres, and that once Peres steps aside, he will do likewise.

Within Mapam, Labour's alignment partner, a Navon candidacy for premier is favourably looked upon since Mapam considers Navon more dovish than Peres or Rabin.

According to some Alignment sources, an agreement is evolving to make peace among all would-be Labour leaders by already allocating the portfolios in a possible Navon cabinet. Thus Navon would be prime minister, Peres his deputy and foreign minister and Rabin defence minister.

The Likud is somewhat disconcerted by talk of Navon stepping down from the presidency. Although Begin met Navon Friday morning to hear details of Navon's visit to the U.S., the prime minister's aides say the question of Navon's political future did not come up.

The opinion in Likud, buoyed by recent opinion polls, is that Begin's popularity is resilient enough to withstand a Navon challenge, although Navon would be a far more formidable opponent than Peres or Rabin. There are evaluations that Navon would not challenge Begin but wait to take on his Likud heir.

A top National Religious Party source said that Interior Minister Yosef Burg would be "very interested" in the nomination. Some NRP sources say that if Burg is elected president, the party might agree to the early elections the Likud seeks; however, a Burg departure from the NRP political arena could further erode that party's prospects.

These planes are being used by Mekorot, the national water company, for research into producing rain by artificial means. Israel is a world leader in this field. The 'spout' seen on top of the fuselage is used to feed silver iodide into the clouds, thus causing rainfall.

(Rosenblum, Starphot)

Holy Year boost for tourist trade

By SANDRA PEPYS HEIDECKER
Special to The Jerusalem Post

The Pope's announcement of an extraordinary Holy Year in Rome from March 25 until next April 22 could provide a boost for Israel's sagging tourist trade. Italian tourist authorities are expecting from five to seven million pilgrims to Rome during this period, and with the city already full for parts of the coming year, many are expected to spread their pilgrimage to include the Holy Land.

Holy Years, established by Pope Boniface VIII in the late middle ages, are normally held every 25 years; extraordinary Holy Years are

occasionally declared, the last one being in 1933. In Catholic tradition special spiritual grace attaches to those making the pilgrimage to Rome during a Holy Year.

Many pilgrims, primarily low-budget groups travelling with their priests, come from Latin America, the Far East, Africa and Australia.

These travellers may be interested in combining a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with their pilgrimage to Rome, says Alitalia's General Manager in Israel, Dr. Julo Baccarini.

"This is a golden opportunity for offering a pilgrimage package deal to them. What is more, these are

mainly people who would not have thought of coming here had it not been for the Holy Year."

Such a Holy Land pilgrimage programme would cost nothing to promote, apart from the printing of one extra page on existing pilgrimage brochures, said Baccarini.

"If packages were to be put together by all airlines and tour operators on a national scale the results might easily compensate for the expected decline in travel to Israel during 1983. And this even if only a very small percentage of the pilgrims decide to visit here on their way to and from Rome."

Mock funeral leads to IDF conviction

TEL AVIV (Itim). — An IDF officer and three basic training instructors all received suspended sentences on Friday after being convicted of staging a mock funeral of a soldier who they said refused to take cover.

The officer also received a severe reprimand.

The incident occurred last September, when a group of inductees was being shown the basics

of infantry field skills. In the drill, without live ammunition an instructor would toss a rock near a trainee and shout "Grenade!" The man was then supposed to move quickly away from the mock explosive and take cover as had been taught.

The soldier in question, according to the defendants, refused to take the drill seriously, and when ordered to get up, lay down on top of the "grenade." Therefore, to impress upon him and the others the

seriousness of the subject, they declared him "dead," and ordered the men to hold a funeral.

Some soldiers dug a grave, others played the part of "crying relatives" or reporters and photographers, and still others laid "wreaths" of branches on the "deceased," after he was placed on the ground, carried on a stretcher by four comrades. There were eulogies, and a volley of salute was fired.

The event itself passed without further incident, but later a participant told his father, who is a major in the reserves, and he submitted a complaint.

In explaining the conviction, the military tribunal ruled that despite the defendants' protests that their intention was merely to instill in the soldiers an understanding of the seriousness of the subject, such behaviour was beyond the bounds of the permissible.

The judges took into consideration, however, that the defendants' intentions were honourable, and that their previous records were unblemished.

WALL STREET WEEK Investors getting the jitters over growing U.S. deficit

NEW YORK (AP). — After several months in which investors seemed willing to ignore it, the U.S. government budget deficit is once again bedeviling the financial markets.

Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, underscored the revived concern this past week when he described the widening deficit as a threat to long-term economic recovery.

"As things stand," the nation's central bank chief said in a speech on Thursday night, "fear of growing deficits cloud the future and contribute to market pressures and inflationary uncertainties." He said it was "crucial" for the government to find ways to get its financial house in order.

Traders in both the stock and bond markets responded uneasily to

that warning, seeing visions of new upward pressure on interest rates and tougher times for economic activity.

The Dow Jones Average of 30 Industrials, ending a run of four consecutive weekly gains, fell 27.87 to 1,052.98 in the past week. The New York Stock Exchange Market Value Index was down 2.64 at 365.56. Big Board volume averaged 81.68 million shares a day, against 94.70 million the week before.

The problem of the deficit is likely to remain in the forefront of investors' concerns for the next couple of weeks at least. President Ronald Reagan is due to deliver his budget proposal at the end of the month and it is believed he will forecast a deficit of between \$180 million and \$200m. for fiscal 1983.

Fast orange pickers earn IS30,000 monthly

Jerusalem Post Reporter

KFAR SAVA. — Orange pickers in the Sharon area are being paid up to IS30,000 net a month this season.

The pickers, mainly from Gaza, are paid according to the number of containers of fruit picked each day. The pickers are averaging seven

containers. Local growers report that this method of payment results in as much as 50 per cent of the fruit being damaged, because the fruit is picked so hurriedly. But, they say, they have no alternative but to hire workers on this basis.

British schoolkids in 2-week visit

The first of some 1,400 British 11- to 14-year-olds from private schools, arrived over the weekend for a two-week stay in the country, the Tourism Ministry announced yesterday.

Groups of about 200 each, accompanied by parents and teachers, will be coming regularly to Israel over the next two months. They will visit Jerusalem, Haifa and Eilat, and spend a day on a kibbutz.

THE ISRAEL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA MUSIC DIRECTOR: URI SEGAL

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REHOVOT, Weizmann Institute — 3.2.8.3
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TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Recanati Hall, Thursday, 10.2.8.3

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HAVE YOU BOUGHT AN APARTMENT IN GIVAT SHAUL YET?
Today Sunday, January 23, 1983 (10 Shvat 5743) at 8 p.m. the inaugural meeting of "The Har Nof Association" will be held at Talmud Torah Sanhedrin, 6 Rehov Yehudit, Jerusalem. The association will have among its objects, the formation of a neighbourhood council, and committees will be formed to establish contact with the bodies and institutions dealing with services to the area and to advance the interests of apartment owners in the neighbourhood.
For further details: Steering Committee for the Har Nof Association, 67 Rehov Hanevi'im Jerusalem.

Threat of Nazareth strike

Jerusalem Post Reporter

NAZARETH. — Some 200 clergymen, counsellors and representatives of workers and teachers here threatened to go on strike if police do not step up the fight against crime in the city. The decision was reached during a meeting held at the cultural centre on Friday.

The participants asked the police to open two more stations in the commercial centre, to increase street patrols and to take legal action against alleged criminals who have reportedly taken over parts of the city. They also called on the

police to close coffee houses where gambling takes place and allow the municipality to organize a civil guard.

Nazareth Mayor Tawfik Zayyad complained that police prevented local volunteers from protecting their residential quarters at night and confiscated their sticks.

Police sources expressed their astonishment at the protest. They said that in 1982 the crime rate in the city dropped by 7 per cent compared with 1981 and that Nazareth is still a quiet city compared with neighbouring towns.

Divers descend on Eilat for congress

Jerusalem Post Staff

EILAT. — Dozens of divers from Israel, Europe and the U.S. are to participate in the first international divers' convention to be held in this country, starting today.

During the congress, which is organized by the Ministry of Tourism, there will be a competition aimed at cleaning up the nature reserve beneath Eilat's waters. Divers will be asked to bring up refuse. They will also look for a "treasure" placed somewhere in Eilat harbour worth about IS25,000. The divers will also visit sites

along the Sinai coast, in coordination with Egyptian authorities.

Meanwhile, Eilat Mayor Gad Katz on Friday called for the immediate opening of a casino here. He was speaking to a meeting of travel agents and others involved in tourism.

Katz said that Israel spends enormous amounts to encourage tourism, and that the minimal investment involved in opening a casino would pay off in many tourists coming here. He pointed out that gambling already exists in Israel, both in the stock market and the sports lotteries.

Druse girl crosses border to wed Syrian sweetheart

By YOEL DAR
Jerusalem Post Reporter

NAZARETH. — A Druse girl from Majdal Shams village on the Golan Heights crossed the border into Syria on Friday to marry a cousin there. This is the first time in 14 months that Israeli authorities have allowed such a border crossing.

The girl, Nadia Abu-Jabal, met her future husband more than two years ago at the tent put up on the border near Majdal Shams for meetings between Golan Druse and their brethren. After several meetings their families held a modest engagement ceremony at the crossing point.

But six months later Israel closed the border in reaction to the dispute over the distribution of Israeli identity cards to the Golan Druse. The girl could no longer meet her fiancé and the fiancé's family appealed both to the Syrian and Israeli governments to enable the two to reunite and to get married.

The Interior Ministry finally decided to enable Nadia to join her fiancé who lives in one of the Jabal Druse villages. She crossed the border under the auspices of the "International Red Cross".

At the same time, Bustan Ama'sha from Bu'kata village and her daughter were allowed to join their families there. Officials expressed astonishment over the absence of Syrian representatives at the crossing.

Israeli authorities reportedly have

rejected appeals of a Druse representative to renew the fortnightly meetings and reunion of families with their kin in Syria. The border was closed in November 1981 as one of the measures taken against radical groups which allegedly incited people against accepting Israeli identity cards. Authorities claimed that the Syrians exploited the opening of the border to incite their supporters against Israel.

Representatives of the 12,000 Druse of the Golan said the closing affects them since there is not a single family without close relatives in Syria. They also said they have learned that the Syrians are ready to resume the meetings near Majdal Shams.

Man's body found

HAIFA. — The body of a 24-year-old man, Meir Biton, was found hanging from a tree near the municipal garbage dump in Tirat Carmel on Thursday.

Biton had a criminal record and had recently been released from Ramleh prison. Police said there were no suspicious circumstances. There will be a post mortem.

24 Gazans arrested

NAZARETH (Itim). — In police raids on four flats, 24 Gazans were arrested for staying overnight here illegally. Police took them back to Gaza where they will face trial.

Crew of 2 vessels saved by Haifa coastal police

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The coastal police here have twice gone to the aid of boats in distress in the past few days. Two young men, Yoram Lakis and Meir Yona, both from Haifa, were rescued yesterday after the rudder of their sailing dinghy broke, stranding them in deep water off the Bat Galim coast. The boat, belonging to the Haifa Sailing Club, was towed to the Kishon harbour here.

In the other incident on Thursday night the coastal police rescued the three-man crew of a fishing vessel which had suffered engine failure while in open seas off the Haifa coast. The boat was towed back to port.

SEMINARS — A series of new studies and lectures on the Hagana, to be carried out and given in the coming year, has been announced by the Institute for the Study of the Yishuv's Defence Forces, sponsored by the Kibbutz Me'uchad movement.

Woman killed by train

HERZLIYA (Itim). — A 34-year-old woman was killed when she threw herself in front of a train here on Friday. The driver of the locomotive travelling from Tel Aviv to Haifa was unable to stop.

Police called to the scene found the woman's car nearby. It contained a large number of antidepressant pills.

The woman was a Herzliya resident, married with children. Her identity was not released. An investigation into the incident is being held.

Housing complaint by Haifa's mayor

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Mayor Arie Gurel on Friday complained to Housing Minister David Levy that since the minister's visit to the city two years ago, not a single public housing apartment has been built by the ministry. Young people have been forced to leave town to seek housing elsewhere, the mayor said.

Herzliya Municipality
Organization and Administration/Municipal Supervision Dept.

To Businessmen

Herzliya businessmen who use business signs are hereby informed that from January 1, 1983, new licences have been issued for the installation of the signs.

License arrangements at the Municipal Supervision Dept., 5 Rehov Sokolow, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Clarifications on Monday, between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

GREATER DAN REGION ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS (SEWERAGE)
TENDER No. 143/D-4/ISP/81
ISRAEL SEWERAGE PROJECT

Greater Dan Region Association of Towns (Sewerage) hereby invites manufacturers to submit bids for the supply and delivery of a Pumping Plant for the Bassa Sewerage Pumping Station.

Tender documents and forms of tender can be obtained against payment of IS 3,000. (non-refundable) from the Engineering Department of the G.D.R.A. of Towns (Sewerage), 24 Nahalot Binyamin Street, Tel Aviv, on working days, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Bidders should submit their bids in two copies on the forms provided and in compliance with the conditions of tender.

Bids, accompanied by bank guarantee for 5% (five per cent) of the bid total, valid for a period of 120 days from the last day set for the submission of the tender, must be placed in the tender box not later than March 7, 1983 at 12 noon.

The envelope containing the bids should be marked:
The Israel Sewerage Project
Tender No. 143/D-4/ISP/81
Greater Dan Region Association of Towns (Sewerage)

Bids arriving after the closing date and hour and bids submitted without the bank guarantee will not be considered.

Bids should be submitted in accordance with the conditions of the tender documents; terms of payment as specified in tender documents.

The manufacturers eligible to bid are as stated in the tender documents.

Additional information is available from the Engineering Department of G.D.R.A. Association of Towns, (Tel. (03) 657144).

A site inspection for bidders will be held on February 14, 1983, leaving the office of G.D.R.A. Association of Towns at 9 a.m.

The Tender Board is not bound to accept the lowest or any proposal for the entire tender or part thereof.

E. CASPI
Chairman of the G.D.R.A. Association of Towns (Sewerage)

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(Advertising Section)

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WHAT'S COOKING IN TEL AVIV is a weekly feature serving residents of and visitors to Tel Aviv. To advertise in this column please contact Shulie Gugenheim at the Jerusalem

THOUGH WE seldom dared to admit it, apprehensions have plagued us for many years. Our Zionist ideal is the ingathering of the exiles, but can our small, poor country really provide a living for millions? We need not have worried. The land's potential is much greater than we had assumed, its soil, even the sand dunes we had thought utterly infertile, is able to yield bountiful crops. The semi-arid or arid climate is beneficial for many branches of the economy. Science and technology have opened fields of activity we had never dreamt of. In fact, today our worries are precisely the opposite of our former doubts; where are the people to make use of all the country has to offer? Will Jews be willing to take up those occupations which can turn the land into paradise on earth?

These were the reflections of many participants in the recent Convention of Israeli Geographers, held in Beersheba on the theme "Man and Desert." Scientists, planners, administrators, and political personalities pondered challenges in the light of available resources. The question of the Negev's development versus that of Galilee and the Golan was touched in a number of scientific papers and dealt with specifically in the Convention's opening and closing sessions. It was found to be difficult to develop both regions simultaneously at the required speed, particularly while the present government diverts large amounts of money to Judea and Samaria and tries to convince a great number of people to settle there.

As one lecturer put it, we have to play pingpong with money and men, faced as we are with minimal immigration, considerable emigration, the enormous demands of our security apparatus and the inclination of many young people returning from army service to take up easy occupations instead of productive work.

We must recognize that neither the Galilee nor the Negev will remain ours automatically if we do not strengthen our positions there. Sinai's return to Egypt has made the Negev a borderland again. Who knows if Egypt and Jordan will not some day renew their pre-1967 struggle for a land bridge connecting them through the southern Negev, cutting off Eilat, our outlet to the southern and eastern seas. The Beduin of the northern and eastern Negev have an unprecedented increase in numbers and a steep rise in their living standards; these may, paradoxically, weaken their loyalty towards the State of Israel in the long run. Moreover, if the Mediterranean-Dead Sea Canal becomes a reality, it should not cut through an uninhabited Negev.

Even more obvious are the perils for Galilee's mountainous parts. In spite of the 35 "mitzpitim" (observation settlements) and the industrial zones which have taken shape over the last years, our demographic standing in Galilee continues to worsen and our political position has only slightly improved. The war



Challenges galore

EFRAIM ORNI looks at the Negev and Galilee and finds urgent need for their development.

In Lebanon has silenced the katyushas, but more intimate contact with our northern neighbour will probably reinforce, sooner or later, designs to detach Galilee from Israel. To prevent this, the region's settlements must be turned into populous and well-founded villages and towns.

The Geographers' Convention profiled the natural assets of the Negev and the Arava Valley. Most optimistic were the geologists, Professor A. Issar and Dr. E. Rosenthal. Fossil water reserves (stored underground from rainy periods of the recent geologic past) are very rich, they reported, and can be tapped by wells sunk along the Arava's western edge and in the Central Negev hills. Although fossil water, in contrast to aquifers constantly replenished by rain, is gradually exhausted when used, Prof. Issar asserts that the reserves will last for decades, even if their pumping is stepped up dramatically, and that they can make the Negev largely independent of water from the north. The reserves are contained in deep sandstone strata and fed from afar. They are brackish, averaging 600 milligrams of chloride per litre, and rich in iron and radon. For home and industrial consumption, this water may need light desalination (through either the electro-dialysis or the "reverse osmosis" process), but farm crops can use them directly, thanks to novel drip irrigation and agromechanical soil preparation.

These fossil water reserves do have drawbacks. Sinking wells to depths of 600 metres or more is expensive, because the water is highly corrosive and pipes and other metal equipment must be replaced frequently; moreover, the water may seep more slowly through the porous strata, over the long distance from its origins, than it will be pumped out. But even if we discount most of the optimistic forecasts, the discovery appears to spell a new phase in the Negev's progress which will enable us to create many more "man-made oases" and villages on the Jordanian border along the vital highway to Eilat.

The easing of the water problem adds feasibility to several grand programmes for the Negev, e.g. the one of Prof. Raanan Weitz to build in the western and northwestern Negev about 100 more farming villages, designed to grow highly-intensive export crops; to create large zones of heavy industry south and southeast of Beersheba, far enough from residential centres to reduce their environmental dangers; to step up mining, especially of phosphates; and to give impetus to the tourism and recreation branch at the many sites of natural beauty and archeological interest, which are hitherto inaccessible and hardly known to the public. Taking into consideration the large tracts of land required as training grounds for the Israel Army now that the Sinai has been closed to it,

and the need to retain, and greatly expand, nature reserves, it emerges that the Negev has no "superfluous" terrain and that land allocation for development demands much circumspection and resourcefulness.

The prospects of the Dead Sea shore are superior to those of any other part of the Negev, according to Shamir, a member of Kibbutz Ein Gedi and head of the Tamar Regional Council. If the relevant authorities cooperate, he says, much can be done. More farming settlements can be set up, for example in the Neot Hakikar area south of the Dead Sea, northwest of the mouth of the Hever brook and elsewhere. They can specialize in the cultivation of the salt-tolerant date palm and other crops. The Dead Sea Works can further increase their potash and bromide production and make full use of the magnesium of which the Dead Sea is one of the world's richest reservoirs, although more research is needed to reduce energy consumption in producing metallic magnesium from magnesium salts.

But the brightest future belongs to Dead Sea tourism. Local sun radiation and the water of the Dead Sea heal psoriasis, a skin disease from which 4 per cent of inhabitants of Northern, Central and Western Europe suffer. Instead of undergoing painful and costly treatment of limited effectiveness in their home cities, patients can, for the same price, combine their cure with an

enjoyable and interesting vacation. Thousands of them already come each year. If the knowledge of the Dead Sea's properties is sufficiently advertised and an infrastructure of shops and entertainment created alongside the growing number of high-class hotels, this therapeutic tourism could grow dramatically. Sulphuric and radioactive springs on the shore also heal other diseases. The area also has something to offer to ordinary Europeans and Americans who normally go to Mediterranean beaches for a "healthy tanning." The dense air above the Dead Sea absorbs the ultraviolet rays which cause sunburn and, frequently, serious damage to sunbathers. At the Dead Sea, they are protected from these rays, and their tan lasts much longer than a tan from the Riviera or the Greek Isles.

Shamir proposes to transfer the main hotel area from Ein Boker and Neveh Zohar north to Hever. It will be located on the lake shore proper and not on the evaporation basin of the Dead Sea Works, on whose bottom an ever thicker layer of common salt is deposited.

Galilee's prospects are equally good. Its newest Jewish settlements can hardly hope to maintain large-scale agriculture, since they stand on state land which is invariably rocky and poor. They are mostly designed as industrial kibbutzim and moshavim or village communities. They can transport their raw materials and products through nearby Haifa Port, now more accessible because of the new highways which have been built or are under construction in Galilee. These roads already help the Arab villagers of Galilee to commute to their work places in the Haifa Bay industrial zone, but will also promote commuting to the region's new industries, until experts and work managers decide to make their home in the area itself. Tourism and recreation in Galilee will also get a boost from the new roads. Yisrael Koenig, the man responsible for Galilee in the Ministry of the Interior, said in his address that great investments are needed to bring educational, health and economic services up to the level of Israel's main centres. Koenig, who is often accused of taking an extreme stand in national matters, surprised the audience by emphasizing that Galilee's non-Jewish villages, many of which have become small or medium-sized towns, should not be discriminated against in public investment, and should receive the same aid for roadbuilding, public institutions, etc., as their Jewish neighbours.

A well-planned environment and attractive work-places will bring highly trained settlers — new immigrants, returning yordim and settlers from Israel's cities — to Galilee and the Negev. To encourage the development of these regions we must solve the decisive problem of our future existence — aliya.

The author is a veteran geographer and author of *Geography of Israel*.



Mks Michael Reiser (left) and Uzi Baram

The pains of coming home

By LEA LEVAVI, Jerusalem Post Reporter

"THE TAXI driver who brought us from the airport was the first person to ask why we came back, but he wasn't the last," complains Dr. Ehud Ben-Gal, a physician who has returned to Israel with his family after six years in the U.S. "Too many people here think that if we came back, we must be either failures or crazy."

Dr. Ben-Gal told his story at a public meeting held by Ayala (Organization of Israelis for Returning Home), held at ZOA House earlier this month. "I had been offered the chance to open and run a department specializing in the endocrinological problems of children, with a salary of \$60,000 a year," he said, "and offers to join other doctors in private practice, which would have provided a salary in six figures. I'm not sure why I decided not to take those jobs. Maybe it's because we were — and would always be — foreigners in the U.S. Home was here."

He had thought a job was waiting for him here at the hospital where he had worked before going abroad for advanced study. Only after the family arrived in Israel did he learn that, due to personnel cuts, his promised job no longer existed. After seven months of living on savings and seeking work, help came through volunteers from Ayala, who provided both a shoulder to cry on and pressure on employers (through their own contacts) to find a place for Dr. Ben-Gal.

AT THE public meeting MK Michael Kleiner (Likud) when asked what he thinks should be done to encourage yordim to return, said the first step is an educational effort to prevent them from leaving Israel at all.

"I would walk up to a young Israeli in line for a visa at the American Embassy and ask him how he would feel if most of us did what he was doing. Does he care what happens to this country, or is he depending on the fact that most of us won't follow his example and will stay here so he'll have a home to which to return?"

As for those who have already left, Kleiner said, he doesn't think they should be ostracized. "On the contrary, I would be in favour of giving the right to vote in Israeli elections to those yordim who declare their intention to return and who serve in the army or show their allegiance to Israel in other ways." He disapproves of efforts to encourage yordim to come home by offering them exemptions from customs taxes and other financial benefits.

MK Uzi Baram (Labour Party), who is the chairman of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, rejected out of hand the idea of letting yordim vote, but moderator Eitan Almog did not give him a chance to explain his reasons. "It's hard for the government to make bringing home yordim a top priority, because that would be seen as undermining other social problems in Israel," Baram said.

"For example, early childhood education is more important than education at higher levels if you want social integration, but higher education becomes very important if you want to bring back yordim or prevent others from leaving. If you would go talk to the Israeli line at the American Embassy, as MK Kleiner suggested, he may tell you he's a doctoral student who can't continue his studies here, because there's no budget for his particular field."

The audience seemed to consist largely of parents or siblings of yordim, who wanted help in convincing their relatives to return home. They complained that their relatives' letters about employment opportunities — here are often "left unanswered," and Israeli bureaucrats here and abroad were alleged to have told potential returnees they are not wanted.

The consensus was that voluntary organizations like Ayala could provide individualized help and encouragement but needed support — financial and otherwise — from the government, potential employers in the private sector and the Israeli public.

Complaint from a court-appointed expert

In the Supreme Court sitting as a Court of Civil Appeals before Justice Moshe Bakshi, Justice Yehuda Cohen and Justice Gavriel Bach in the matter between Yehuda Klausner, appellant, and Amal Hanegbi Ltd. and the Ofakim Local Council, the respondents (C.A. 453/81).

THE FIRST RESPONDENT instituted action against the second respondent in the District Court for payment in respect of certain excavation work. During the case, the respondents agreed to the appointment by the court of the appellant, as an expert, to hear evidence and the arguments of the parties, and to file his opinion as to the amount of rock actually excavated; the method of assessing the additional sum to be paid for excavating rock as distinct from ordinary excavation; and the additional sum to be paid for the excavation of rock. It was also agreed that the opinion of the appellant on the above points would be regarded as a finding of the court, and that his fee, to be paid by the parties in equal shares, would be regarded as part of the costs of the case.

The appellant held seven meetings with the parties and their lawyers, heard evidence which was recorded in 3,600 metres of tape, received assistance from another expert, a secretary and a typist, and furnished an opinion covering 12 typed pages. He fixed his fee at IS36,475.

The District Court was of the opinion that the appellant had misunderstood his instructions,

and had heard evidence and arguments far in excess of what was required of him. Although there was no doubt that he had acted in good faith, there was no justification for making the parties pay for the excess. The appropriate fee based on the tariff of the Association of Engineers and Architects was small indeed, but since the parties had agreed to pay him IS4,000, a fee in this sum would be confirmed. The appellant appealed against this ruling.

In giving the first judgment of the Supreme Court, Justice Bakshi said that counsel for the respondents had argued, *inter alia*, that the appeal should be struck out since only the parties to litigation could appeal against a decision of the court. This argument must be rejected, Justice Bakshi said. It was true that, as a general rule, persons connected with a case who were not actual litigants could not appeal.

The appellant, however, was in a similar position to a receiver in cases of bankruptcy, or a liquidator of a company, and the court had always entertained appeals by them although they were not actual litigants. In the present case the appellant had been appointed by the court, and his fee was to be regarded as part of the costs of the case. In his asking the court to confirm his fee, he was really in the position of a plaintiff. The point now taken had never arisen before in the Supreme Court, but he was of

opinion that the appellant's right of appeal should be recognized.

TURNING to the facts, Justice Bakshi pointed out that since the appellant had been specifically required, in terms of his appointment, to hear evidence and the arguments of the parties, he could not possibly be accused of misunderstanding his instructions in so doing. A more important point, however, was that the respondents themselves, having agreed to those terms, had participated, with their lawyers, in all the meetings, had initiated the hearing of evidence and argument, and had thereby increased the number of meetings. It was difficult, therefore, to understand their complaint in this regard.

On the other hand, Justice Bakshi said, the appellant had done some unnecessary work. For example, after having all the evidence taped, he had also had the record typed instead of keeping his own note of the principal points raised. Moreover, he had also consulted another expert without receiving the court's approval as was usual in such cases.

After examining the appellant's account in detail, and deleting items in respect of unnecessary work, Justice Bakshi fixed the fee at IS14,500, and proposed that the court order accordingly.

Justice Cohen concurred in the judgment of Justice Bakshi. JUSTICE BACH, in his judgment, expressed grave doubts whether it was proper to entertain an appeal by a person not a party to a case. There were many instances, he said, both in criminal and civil cases, where persons were affected by decisions of the court, but were not permitted by law to appeal, either independently, or even by joining an appeal lodged by one of the litigants.

The victim of a criminal offence to whom damages have been awarded by the court convicting the criminal, cannot appeal against the inadequacy of the sum awarded. Similarly, there is no appeal against an order in a criminal case in respect of the possession of immovable property, or against the refusal of the court to order the return of an exhibit.

The court itself, he went on, often

summons expert or other witnesses, either at the request of a party or on its own initiative, and there are tariffs governing their fees; but a witness who complains that there was some mistake or irregularity in fixing his fee has no right of appeal.

In his opinion, Justice Bach said, it would be inadvisable, from the point of view of judicial policy, to grant a right of appeal to all such witnesses. He was unable to accept the analogy of receivers in bankruptcy or liquidators of companies who were really in a sense parties to the case, since they were charged with the administration of the property of one of the parties.

Justice Bach said that he shared the feeling of Justice Bakshi that to withhold the appellant's right of appeal would be in a sense a denial of his rights. The difficulty was that there were many instances of much more serious damage to a witness than being underpaid. The court might find that he has lied, or been party to a crime, or has acted unethically or, in a case such as the present, has not been objective. In such cases the damage to the witness may be irreparable, but he has no right of appeal. One also had to consider the position of the actual litigants, who would be dragged into further court proceedings although their own dispute had already been disposed of.

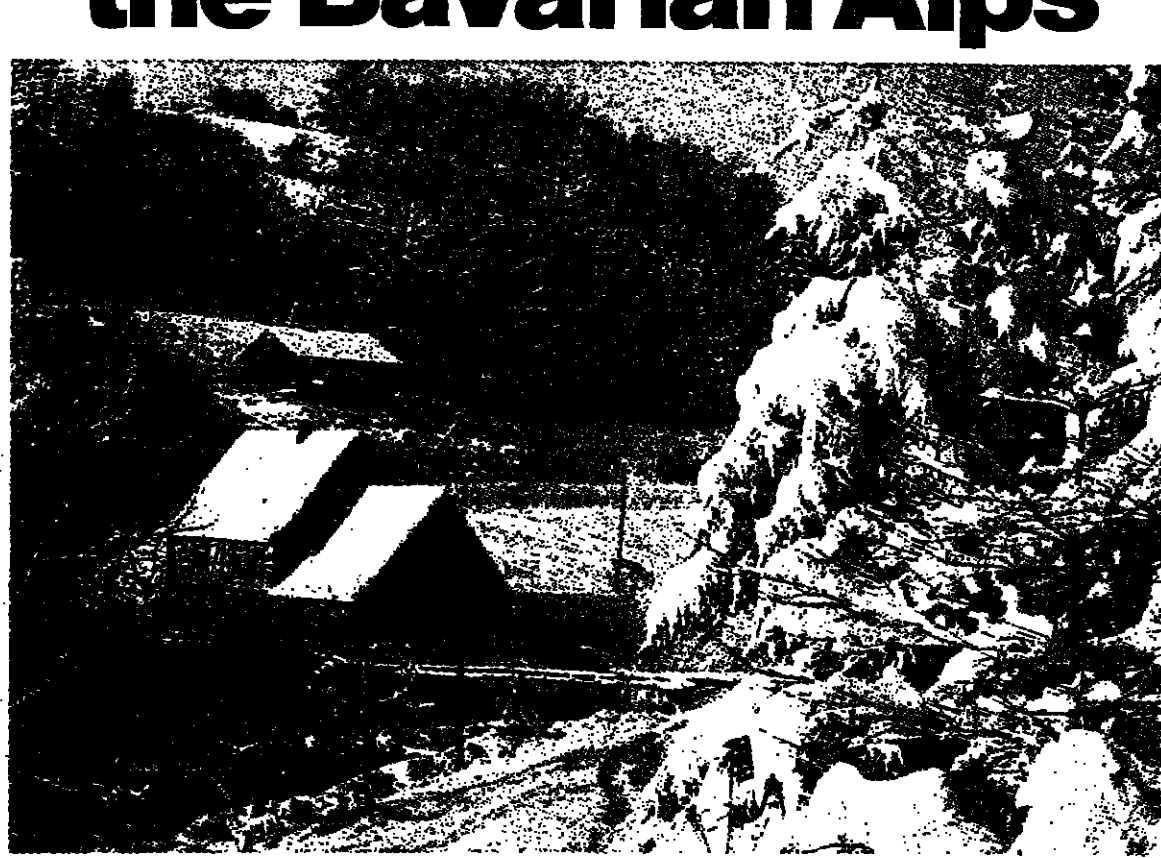
Nevertheless, Justice Bach said, he was prepared to agree that there may be exceptions to the general rule. In the present case, the appellant was much more than an ordinary expert witness. He had acted as an officer of the court in the full sense of the term, had fulfilled a far-reaching function, and had occupied a special status in the case. He was, therefore, prepared to agree to entertaining the appeal in this particular instance, and he agreed to the fee proposed by Justice Bakshi.

In conclusion, Justice Bach emphasized that the decision in the present case should on no account be regarded as a precedent. He also suggested that the legal difficulties discussed should be examined by the legislature and subordinate legislative authorities.

The appeal was allowed, the appellant's fee fixed at IS14,500, and the respondents ordered to pay costs in the sum of IS3,000.

Judgment was given on October 19, 1982.

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REPORT SUSPICIOUS OBJECTS

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Aridor steps in

ONLY a few weeks ago the common assumption in the country was that the Treasury would refrain from taking any decisive steps to tame Israel's frenzied stock market. It was argued that by imposing a two per cent tax on share transactions, the exchequer had tapped a new and lucrative source of revenue which it would not now wish to undermine. And it was held that playing the market had become such a broad-based, consuming and profitable passion among the public as to deter the Treasury from risking the political fall out that would follow upon any imposed curbs.

On Thursday morning, Mr. Aridor confounded all. He let it be known that the Treasury was preparing legislation to regulate the activities of mutual funds — main forces in the market. The impact was immediate. Shares plunged in panic selling. Presumably, the panic will abate as investors become accustomed to the new rules of the game that are in the offing. Those rules, which after submission by the Treasury must obtain Knesset approval, are designed to limit the manipulative powers of the funds and the banks, protect the small investor, and up-grade once again the attraction of less liquid forms of savings, thus dampening the inflationary effect of the runaway stock market.

At the same time, Stock Exchange chairman Meir Heth is pressing for new regulations governing new share issues in an effort to restore at least some linkage between the market and the economic performance of the issuing companies.

For those who had become addicted to the casino features of the stock market, the Treasury's new measures will come as a bitter disappointment. But those concerned about the national interest must welcome Mr. Aridor's steps and praise him for his courage.

Soldiering debased

CHIEF OF STAFF Rafael Eitan is a tough and proud soldier. His virtuosity, displayed over many years, has lain in battle: planning, managing and leading men in battle. Hardened by 35 years of martial achievement in the service of Israel's security and on behalf of the ideals of Israel's army, he would be unable to see himself as a victim. And yet victim he has become, like the society as a whole, to the corrosive effects of military occupation, which remains the correct description of Israel's control of the West Bank.

How else can be characterized the directives he issued last April to Israel's troops on the West Bank? Those directives were revealed last week in a military court that is itself hearing a case involving charges of brutality against Israeli officers and men.

The directives were issued in order to curb the widespread unrest that was then current in Judea and Samaria. The aim, in other words, was to restore social order. The means advocated were nothing of which the nation or the chief of staff himself can be proud: systematic harassment, expulsion, collective punishment, arbitrary imprisonment, punishment of parents for activities of children, economic sanctions against whole villages, and more.

In a more innocent time, Israelis could all identify with Golda Meir's well-known dictum that she could forgive our Arab foes everything, but the fact that they forced our sons to kill their sons. On the West Bank the demoralizing dialogue of occupation banishes the ideals and sensitivities which Israel and the Israeli army were able to uphold despite the pressures of war.

There the usages of repression, not the grammar of battle absorb Israeli troops and their commanders. There the arts of violence are practised not to defeat an opposing army, but to make docile a civilian population, bestirred to political resistance.

On such a mission no army can long keep its virtues and values intact. It falls victim to the evils of suppression. The chief of staff, at the end of a distinguished military career, has reflected the inevitability and tragedy of the process.

MED-DEAD SEA

(Continued from Page One)

the hydro-electric plant."

The recommendation is to be brought for approval today before the board of the Med-Dead Company. The results of the final economic and engineering feasibility studies are to be published tomorrow, which coincides with the arrival here of 200 Jewish leaders from the U.S. and Canada for a week-long Canal Founders Conference of Israel Bonds.

Moda stressed that with or without the hydro-electric plant, it would be necessary to build a canal in the Negev to bring sea water to cool the coal-fired or nuclear-powered plants to be built in the area. The water could also be used, the minister said, for satellite projects such as solar energy ponds, industrial parks and the exploitation of shale oil deposits. No definite plans exist for these projects.

The hydro-electric plant was planned to generate electricity only at peak-consumption hours, thus replacing the heavy oil or gas used in the older thermal power plants. It was not intended to replace the

building of another full-sized power plant.

In a lecture Thursday night at the Oil and Energy Club, Moda said that Israel's energy development priorities for the next decade would be oil exploration, the building of a nuclear power plant and the conversion to coal.

Even if oil prices continue to decline, he said, oil will still be the most economical energy source for those countries which have it. The ministry's goal, he said, is to expand exploration by 1985 to between \$80-100m. a year, about double what it is now.

Conversion of electricity production and industry to coal would be encouraged even if oil prices dropped dramatically to around \$20 a barrel, he said. This is because the sources of supply for coal (Australia, South Africa and the U.S.) are more politically stable and reliable than Israel's main sources of oil, Egypt and Mexico.

Nuclear power will be given a big push in several weeks, the minister said, when the cabinet decides to start preparations for building a power plant largely from Israel's own resources. Israel's nuclear power plans have been stalled for the last seven years because supplier countries refuse to sell Israel a reactor unless it signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which would permit inspection of all Israel's nuclear facilities.

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NOTABLE BY THEIR ABSENCE

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN

LAST TUESDAY, eight good men and true, four of them representing the Histadrut and the other four the employers' Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations, came up to a Jerusalem of rain and sleet for a meeting of the Knesset Labour and Social Affairs Committee.

But they did not get a chance to say their piece, and will have to come back to Jerusalem again this week to do so.

The committee meeting opened with a statement by the Deputy Labour and Social Affairs Minister Benzion Rubin, who explained the provisions of the Minimum Wage Bill. It provides for the periodic adjustment of the minimum wage to the rise in the average wage in the economy, and will affect about 100,000 workers.

Rubin then left, and committee chairman Menahem Porush gave the floor to Ephraim Ziloni, of the Histadrut Central Committee. At this point, committee member Yair Tsaban (Alignment-Mafam) noted that, apart from the chairman, not one of the coalition's nine members on the committee was present. He proposed that the meeting be adjourned and Porush did just that.

Porush had had his fill of this sort of thing. Last month he even sent a letter of complaint to the prime minister. He wrote that whereas the Alignment representatives were top-level MKs who took an interest in the committee's work, the only coalition member who attended regularly was Sara Doron (Likud-Liberals).

Mr. Begin has not yet replied. If an Alignment motion for the agenda calling on the prime minister to dismiss the minister of defence is answered, not by the prime minister or even by one of the two deputy prime ministers, but by Ariel Sharon himself, who can worry about something like committee attendance?

ONE OF the absentees at last Tuesday's meeting was Miriam Glazer-Ta'asa, deputy minister of education. She explains that six months ago she asked Ronnie Milo, who heads the Herut wing of the Likud faction, to relieve her of the Labour Committee assignment, since she is so occupied with education matters. But since there is no replacement available, she attends the commit-

tee's Monday sessions.

Milo himself is also, officially, a member of the Labour Committee. He and David Magen, head of the Kiryat Gat local council, were appointed to the committee after Amnon Linn and Yitzhak Peretz defected to the Alignment. That was last May. But neither Milo nor Magen has ever set foot in the committee room.

Another non-starter is Michael Dekel, one of the two deputy ministers of agriculture, who has requested the committee secretary not to send him notices of meetings.

Then there is Zvi Renner, treasurer of the Liberal Party. (Either he or Interior Minister Yosef Burg is the oldest MK: both were born in 1909.) He says he has been boycotting the Labour Committee (he recently ended his boycott of the Finance Committee), because there is no caucus of Likud committee members to reach a Likud consensus on the questions that come up. It's every man for himself.

"Whom are you punishing?" I ask. "The public?"

He claims that that was the only way to get action, and said the matter would be discussed at the Liberal wing's meeting last Friday.

Sara Doron, who heads the Likud faction, says that her rare absence last Tuesday was due to a bereavement. But she adds that only recently did she manage to free herself from membership in the Interior Committee, and that thanks to Ariel Weinstein's entering the Knesset (after the death of David Shiffman), Ehud Olmert has not been so fortunate in his effort to get off the Education Committee.

THEN THERE IS the anomaly of a minister being a member of the Labour Committee. He is Aharon Uzan, minister of labour and social affairs, and of immigrant absorption. He was named to the committee before becoming a minister, and he is still on the list. Of course he never attends.

Who in Tami would replace him? For Aharon Abuhatzira it would be a come-down. And since Deputy Minister of Labour Benzion Rubin

actually runs that ministry, for him to be a member of the committee would be an even more flagrant violation of the principle of the separation of powers.

All this illustrates the "objective" difficulty the coalition has in managing its committee assignments. Of the coalition's 64 members, deduct 19 ministers, one Knesset speaker, and even the eight deputy ministers. Some of the deputy ministers do have committee assignments (e.g. Glazer-Ta'asa) but understandably prefer to devote themselves to their executive duties.

This leaves only 35 coalition members from whom serious committee participation can be expected, as against 50 in the Alignment alone, and 56 in all the opposition factions together.

The Labour Committee may not be typical, but even in the prestigious Foreign Affairs Committee, there are chronic absentees, and there they are more likely to be Alignment ex-ministers than Likud members.

It is common knowledge that the most desirable committee assignments are Foreign Affairs and Defence, and Finance. Here MKs do not fight to get off, but to get on.

What, then, are we to make of the latest revelation about absenteeism — this time in the 20-man subcommittee on the defence budget? The subcommittee, headed by Mordechai Gur, is composed of 10 members of the Alignment, eight of the Likud, and two of the National Religious Party.

FOUR OF the Likud members were absent from all eight committee meetings held since last March, and only one Likudnik attended as many as four. One member attended one meeting, one attended two, and one Likud member remained unannounced all year long.

In contrast, the two NRP members and most of the Alignment members, with the notable exception of Abba Eban, attended most of the sessions.

But last week's meeting reached a record low. Those present were chairman Gur and Mordechai Avtahi (NRP). And the two of them

decided on the Defence Ministry's request for the transfer of IS100 billion "from paragraph to paragraph" in the 1982 defence budget.

This means that instead of returning to the Treasury, or squandering sums allocated but, in the event, not required (fully) for a given purpose, the Defence Ministry asks the parliamentary committee to approve the use of the money for some other defence purpose. That Gur's committee is not a rubber stamp is indicated by the fact that it trimmed the ministry's request by IS600 million: the money will remain in the Treasury.

True, the decision taken by Gur and Avtahi, Ltd. is not final. It must be approved by the full Finance and Foreign Affairs Committees, meeting jointly. On Tuesday, the members will find on their desks a bulky book in which every figure is detailed. But what kind of intelligent decision can they be expected to make?

So much for the coveted places on those two committees.

WHAT IS the solution to this blatant neglect of their duties by Knesset members?

Proposed solutions abound, but most of them — even their proponents admit — are not "realistic."

Both Renner and Doron say that the size of the committees should be reduced, aiming at a goal of only one committee assignment per MK. But Yair Tsaban points out that, mathematically, that would mean committees of only seven or so members, especially if the Finance and Foreign Affairs committees are not cut down to the same size as the others.

If members are to continue to have more than one committee assignment, Doron and Renner say that committee meetings should be scheduled so as not to conflict with one another. This at least would make it physically possible for members of two committees to attend the meetings of both, something which is not always true at present.

But when you have 10 committees, most of which meet twice a week, it is not an easy task to

squeeze them into two and a half mornings a week, with no overlapping.

Doron has a specific suggestion — begin the Wednesday plenary session at noon instead of 11 a.m. This would make it possible to have two committee "periods" on Wednesday too: from 8 to 10 a.m. and from 10 a.m. to noon. But Doron herself adds: "Of course, that would add an hour to the MK's day, and many of them would object."

Speaker Menahem Savidov's proposal about requiring Knesset members — at least as a moral obligation set forth black on white — to be in the Knesset on its three sitting days each week and to be regular in the attendance in the plenum and committees is still alive.

On both sides of the House, there is strong objection to inserting such a requirement into the Knesset Members Immunity Law, but apparently a consensus willing to have this included in the Knesset Rules. That might help. If an MK is in the Knesset, there is more of a chance that he will spend some of his time in the plenum and in committees than if he is in his law office or what have you.

BOTH RENNER and Doron also have suggestions for improving attendance in the plenum — Renner has discussed some of them with Savidov — but let us leave them for another day.

The House Committee is still dealing with the recommendations of its subcommittee on conflict of interest, which links up in a way with the matter of attendance and absenteeism.

In fact, the whole complex of "Proper Behaviour of a Knesset Member" is the subject of a symposium to be held this morning at the Knesset, sponsored by the Israel Association on Problems of Parliamentarism. The discussion is expected to give the House Committee both stimulus and direction.

One thing is certain, however. The problem is technical only secondarily. The real question is whether the Knesset admits that the present state of affairs is intolerable and must be changed. If it does that, the way will be found.

The writer is the Knesset reporter of the Jerusalem Post.

READERS' LETTERS

DIZZIFYING NUMBERS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — When reading about Aridor's "trillion" budget in your issue of January 11, I was really frightened, until I realized that this was an American trillion, a figure with 12 zeros. In the United Kingdom, as well as on the European continent, a figure with 12 zeros is a billion, whilst an American billion has only 9 zeros. Then again, a European trillion, including the UK, would mean a figure with 18 zeros, i.e. 6 zeros more than in the USA — a dizzy, unreal figure for a person with a European background like me.

You should take into consideration the fact that not all your readers are American.

MOSHE HOFFMANN
Rehovot.

The Jerusalem Post adopted American style with regard to billion and trillion some years ago. The Israeli economy is bound up more with the U.S. economy than with that of any other country. The shekel as well as the nation's external trading figures are measured principally in U.S. dollars. — Ed., J.P.

PILOTS' WORKING HOURS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Your recent article covering the history of the problems in El Al was most interesting. I was particularly interested in the working hours and working rules, as I had just read an article in Business Week dated December 20 covering similar situations on major airlines in the United States. I find it noteworthy that pilots for Continental Airlines work 78 hours per month. El Al pilots refused to work 75 hours.

GABRIEL ALTER
Toronto

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — Home birth, the title of a one-page article by D'vora Ben Shaul in Today (January 7), attempts to make attractive what may in fact be the rebirth of dangerous childbirth. Most of the arguments given are irrelevant to the issue and do not consider the beneficial results of modern medicine for mankind — including womankind. Neither the National Health Insurance benefit, nor the sex of the birth attendant nor the freedom of the mother to choose has any bearing upon the lack of choice the newborn has for as safe a delivery and as bright a future as can be provided for him.

Since modern obstetrics took the giant leaps forward in our generation, mortality and morbidity rates, for both mother and child, have been drastically reduced. It is only because of this tremendous achievement that advocates of home birth can stand up and announce that "birth is a normal process not an illness, so I choose to be normal at home and not in hospital." Where were these naturalists 10 or 20 years ago when women were dying in childbirth and babies were being born with brain damage for life? I would expect that they would have been demanding better care for childbirth and denouncing the lack of attention being paid to the atrocious practices that went on during birth at home only a generation ago.

DIABETIC UNIT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — I was shocked and distressed to learn that the diabetes unit at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa may be closed down, apparently because of budgetary reasons.

This is an appalling situation. The unit has been my life line for many years and I am sure that the vast number of patients it has served would agree with me. Dr. Kantor and his staff, who are all specialists

in their specific fields, have helped thousands of patients over the years and many of us are alive only by virtue of the fact that their services were available.

I sincerely hope that more thought will be given to the subject before any decision is made to close down this vital unit.

RUTH DONIGER
Moshav Hazonim.

HOME BIRTH

We should not therefore be thinking in terms of removing births from hospitals to homes, but of attaining a home-like atmosphere for birth in a hospital campus. Such midwives as Katje and your correspondent D'vora Ben Shaul should be helping us receive from the Health Ministry and insurance institutes the necessary aid for both improved personalized conditions for childbearing women, and their husbands and families, as well as the improved equipment which has so infinitely improved the safety of mother and child. Should such development be attained, we could have both safe and happy natural deliveries — sitting up if you wish.

PROFESSOR DAVID M. SERR,
President, The Israel Society of
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Tel Aviv.

Sir, — Your article "Home birth," was most interesting and indeed some of my more pleasant memories of general practice in England are of home deliveries. The rising interest in home deliveries and breast-feeding is a reflection of a demand for more humane medicine. I feel, however, that we must not lose sight of our ultimate aims, that is a healthy and contented mother, baby and family. Let there be no doubt that, with all their faults, hospital obstetric units can save the lives of both mother and baby. No midwife or doctor, however experienced, can foretell some serious complications which are potentially life-threatening.

SANDELL GREENFIELD
BEN-NARUM
Safad.

Unfortunately, there will always be illness and death associated with childbirth and our aim must be to reduce both to the lowest possible levels and at the same time not lose sight of the human side of childbirth, which seems to have been sorely neglected.

My advice is not to bring the hospital to the home, but bring the home to the hospital. I urge women to think again and concentrate their efforts on humanizing our hospitals.

DR. MELVYN H. BROOKS
Pardess Hanna.

Sir, — D'vora Ben Shaul makes some good points regarding the discomforts, indignities and actual damage which the delivering mother is likely to experience in a hospital. But what about the baby? A retinoblastic creature who has lived its entire nine-month life in total darkness in the womb is suddenly subjected to the bright and glaring lights of a hospital delivery room and nursery. No one can offer assurance that this does not cause damage to the retina or brain which only manifests itself years later.

And who can determine the cost to both mother and newborn because it is immediately whisked away to the nursery rather than placed on the warm and familiar body of its mother? And not to be discounted is the trauma to the small older sibling at home, suddenly abandoned by its mother for reasons unfathomable.

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